

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Against this background, the present invention resides in one aspect in a system including a user operable portable radio communication device and a server, the portable radio communication device comprising a sensor which allows automatic input of data to the portable radio communication device, a controller for controlling the device, a browser which downloads content from the server, the controller being arranged to be responsive to data input via said sensor to control the browser to download content from a server associated with the input data, means for providing for information personal to a user, and contextualisation means configured to contextualise the downloaded content with the personal information.

[0004] An advantage of the invention is that there is provided a portable radio communication device that can be utilised by an end user in a manner that enables downloaded information/content to be combined with information, data and content specific to the end user. More specifically, the provision of the contextualisation means allows a user to merge personal information with information of a more general and public nature. This offers a new and powerful way of using information from for example the internet.

[0005] In another aspect the present invention comprises a system including a user operable portable radio communication device and an object device connected to a network, the portable radio communication device comprising a transmitter for transmitting an identity tag indicative of the identity of the portable radio communication device, the object device comprising a receiver,

and a processor, the system in response to the receiver receiving an identity tag transmitted from a portable radio communication device, the processor authorising the downloading of information via the network to a remote server or terminal in accordance with address information associated with the identity tag.

[0006] An advantage of this arrangement is that an end user only has to carry a small, passive device by which the user can request that specified items of information e.g. relating to a website, are downloaded to a terminal such as a PC belonging to the user. In this way, the user can use the information when at a terminal and has the time to do so.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] In order to aid a more detailed understanding of the present invention, various embodiments of the invention will now be described. These should not be construed as limiting the invention and are merely examples of specific ways of putting the invention into effect. In particular, the invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

[0008] Figures 1a and 1b illustrate one embodiment of the present invention;

[0009] Figure 2 provides a schematic representation of the architecture of the embodiment of Figure 1;

[0010] Figure 3 illustrates the embodiment of Figure 1 in one use;

[0011] Figure 4 illustrates the embodiment of Figure 1 in a second use;

[0012] Figure 5 illustrates the embodiment of Figure 1 in a third use;

[0013] Figure 6 illustrates a further embodiment of the invention; and

[0014] Figure 7 shows the embodiment of Figure 6 in one use.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0015] Referring to Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the accompanying drawings, there is shown an embodiment of the present invention comprising a handheld portable radio communication device (10) that is operable to communicate with a network. The portable radio communication device (10) is provided with an input means (12) which allows the input of data to the device by scanning or other data gathering technologies without the user having to input the data into the device manually. The input means may be optical in nature, e.g. by way of Optical Character Recognition (OCR), infrared (I.R.) scanning, barcode scanning or Optical Shape Recognition (OSR), or it may be by way of low power RF such as Bluetooth. Connected to the input means (12) is an interpreter (14) which reads the input data, interprets the input data and produces an output indicative of some identifying means of the scanned item such as an address e.g. an internet website address. This may be achieved by means of an on-board look-up table or other database, or by reference to a distributed database.

[0016] Fig. 1a illustrates from top to bottom, back, side and top views of the communication device (10) including a display (13) and belt loop (13') and Fig. 1b illustrates the communication device in a horizontal and vertical orientation with the display (13) displaying different text.

[0017] In preferred arrangements of the present invention, advertisements,

whether on posters in public places (as illustrated in Figure 3) or printed in magazines (not illustrated) which carry I.R. or Barcoded links to further information are inputted by the input means (12). Additionally, full Optical Shape Recognition enables the user of the communication device (10) to interrogate logos, badges and trademarks (15) (as illustrated in Figure 4).

[0018] The identification of a website address outputted by the interpreter prompts the device's microprocessor (16) to launch the on-board browser (18) so as to enable the portable device to access the remote server using the website address. Information and content relating to the scanned item is thus downloaded to the user's portable device.

[0019] The portable device is also provided with contextualisation means (20) which is configured to process downloaded data in a way that allows that data to be combined with data of a personal nature. The contextualisation means (20) is controlled by the microprocessor (16) and is configured to allow the user to merge data, information or content which is downloaded from the internet with personal data. The contextualisation means is preferably implemented in software which associates personal information of the user of communication device (10) with information retrieved from an external server (not illustrated) which may be associated with any information provider such as but not limited to the internet. For example, as the user personalises the data stored on the device (or in an on-line database), the device could be used to overlay images personal to the user (the user's living room, car, or personal photograph) with images captured in the real world or downloaded from persons on the internet. This

would enable the portable device to be used as a 'personal dresser', allowing the user to 'try on' clothes or visualise furniture in his home.

[0020] Figure 5 illustrates a further use of the personal device in which content is accessed by scanning a picture or a barcode in a catalogue. The information is downloaded to the personal device and inputted to the contextualisation means (20). The contextualisation means (20) allows the user to merge downloaded data with personal data.

[0021] The personal device may be configured to interface with local area networks (LANs) and wireless local area networks (WLANs) for example in shops and in this arrangement the contextualisation means (20) is configured to bring together user preferences with in-store offers tailored to that specific user, e.g. offers may appear on the personal device display at the instant the user is passing a particular product. The user may have programmed in the user preferences before the user sets out on the shopping trip. The user may also initiate downloading by accessing the LAN or WLAN for information which is then used by the contextualisation means (20) along with personal data.

[0022] Another form of the present invention makes use of the Global Positioning System (GPS). In this form of the invention, the personal device is equipped with a GPS receiver thereby enabling the user to access location specific information and review data that may have been accessed when last at that particular location. The contextualisation means (20) is used in this embodiment of the invention in a way that data personal of the user is used and associated with the particular location of the user. For instance in the form of a

reminder message relating to the particular location of the user as for example disclosed in assignee's co-pending UK Patent Application number GB 0116140.5

[0023] In Figure 6 there is shown side and end views of a further embodiment of the present invention which comprises a small passive personal device (600) which the user possesses at all times and which conveniently may be used as a form of electronic identity for the user. In this embodiment of the invention, the personal device is used by the user to request/authorise the downloading of information from an object device to some other specified terminal such as the user's home computer. This embodiment allows the user to capture information while on the move, in particular information that may be all around the user on various objects and items but which may not have the time to review at that particular moment. The embodiment benefits in that many forms of information such as advertising increasingly offer supplementary details on an associated internet websites which can be reviewed by the user when more time to do so is available. In this embodiment the portable device is provided with an identity means and as the user is moving around the environment and when a website is found of interest, the user may request/authorise the downloading of the website address to a home PC using the identity means. So for example if the user sees a website address on an advertisement (such as illustrated in Figure 7) and wishes to have more information about the product/service being advertised, then the user transmits from the personal device an identity tag identifying the personal device to the advertisement. The advertisement is equipped with a receiver that receives the identity tag and registers the identity tag in a memory of

the advertisement. The advertisement is connected to the network so that the user's registered identity is used as a means of addressing for the information to be downloaded. In this way, the user is always connected to the wider electronic world even when his/her more capable devices are absent. A further feature of this embodiment is that it may be used in conjunction with a larger personal portable device such as that illustrated in Figures 1 to 5 in a way that it requires the proximity of the passive personal device in order to enable the larger portable device. This provides security for the user in that if the larger portable device is not within range of the smaller personal device then the larger device is disabled.

[0024] Thus the invention provides for user control and interaction of public data with personal data.

[0025] In the context of the present invention, the term network as used herein covers all types of networks including cellular networks, IP networks, the internet, LANs, WLANs etc.

[0026] In view of the foregoing, it should be appreciated that the present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from its essential attributes.

[0027] Furthermore, each feature disclosed in this specification and/or shown in the drawings may be incorporated in the invention independently of other disclosed and/or illustrated features. In this regard, the invention includes any novel feature or combination of features disclosed herein either explicitly or any generalisation thereof.